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26 December 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept., JCS reviews completed.

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*South Vietnam: [Vietnamese military commander General Khanh is taking an aggressive stand in the crisis in Saigon]

[He has sent Premier Huong a complaint alleging US affronts to the military, and asking Huong to investigate and take "appropriate action." Various sources indicate that Khanh and his Armed Forces Council expect the government to respond within a few days. The military leaders, meanwhile, are voicing threats of withdrawing support from the government or even overthrowing it unless Huong sides with them]

[Huong continues to feel he must be accommodating toward the military, but he is anxious to avoid any steps that would jeopardize good relations with the US. Yesterday he told the British Ambassador that Khanh was adamant against reinstating the High National Council, but was not opposed to the creation of another committee with analogous functions but under a different name. Huong expressed the belief that this probably was the best he could get from the armed forces at this time]

[In an effort to keep the military lined up behind him, Khanh is stepping up his anti-American campaign. Staff meetings have been held in some field headquarters to get signed petitions urging the government to ask the recall of the US Ambassador. American military advisers have been told by their informants that various pressures were applied to obtain signatures.]

[The Vietnamese military, meanwhile, is proceeding quietly to implement the retirement of senior officers with 25 years in service. It was this issue that precipitated the crisis on 20 December. All nine

(continued)

generals affected, including "Big" Minh and the "Dalat" generals, have received retirement orders signed by Khanh and citing the approval of both the premier and chief of state.⁷

[Investigation of Thursday's terrorist bombing of a US billet in Saigon, in which two Americans were killed and 63 wounded, indicates that the explosive charge weighed about 200 pounds. No other terrorist act or significant military action has since been reported.]

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Communist China: The regime's hopes for a good agricultural year in 1964 have been frustrated by a poor autumn crop, according to US analyses.

Grain output in 1964 is estimated at about 170 million tons, two to three percent below 1963. While rice output rose in Central and South China, recent extensive flooding in North China caused a substantial decline in the harvest of miscellaneous grains. Wheat production in 1964 also dropped slightly, with poor yields offsetting increased acreages. The regime, however, has not acknowledged such developments and continues to talk of a bumper harvest.

The 1964 grain output estimate is about six percent below the 1957 level, and--because of population growth--the per capita grain supply would be about 14 percent below the 1957 level, even considering grain imports of 6.5 million tons in 1964. The present expanded output of subsidiary foods, mainly on peasants' private plots, should prevent a recurrence of the widespread malnutrition of 1960-61.

is expected to

Nevertheless, the food supply [could] tighten this winter and spring, especially in those areas of North China hard hit by flooding. The regime will continue to import sizable amounts of grain in early 1965, and these, coupled with current efforts to increase domestic procurement, may enable the leadership to ease regional differences in supply and prevent any sharp deterioration in the over-all food situation.



RAILROAD RECONSTRUCTION IN NORTH VIETNAM

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26 Dec 64 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

NOTE

North Vietnam: (The North Vietnamese portion of
the railroad between Hanoi and Kunming has been
about 60 percent reconstructed, [redacted])

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[redacted] improvements in
alignment, roadbeds, and bridges which will enable
the line to handle faster trains and heavier loads.

The steel and rails needed are probably being sup-
plied by China. In 1961 Rumania agreed to help North
Vietnam with this reconstruction, but there is no evi-
dence that this agreement is being carried out.) [redacted]

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[redacted] (Map)

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